

Application No.: 09/740,930

Docket No.: 21736-00011-US

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Original) A method for using a computer to implement an auction of a set of first objects and one or more complementary second objects, at least one first object having a complementary second object, two or more bidders participating in the auction, the method comprising:

- a) initiating an auction by identifying available objects to bidders,
- b) inputting, into the computer, bids for first objects from bidders,
- c) determining, at the computer, based on the bids of step b), whether the auction should continue,
- d) repeating steps b) and c) until the auction is terminated,
- e) assigning the first objects to bidders based on the bids in force at the time the auction was terminated, and
- f) assigning a complementary second object to a successful bidder for a first object, based on the bids for the first objects.

Claim 2. (Original) The method of claim 1 where step f) occurs contemporaneous with steps a) -e).

Claim 3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the prices for second objects are based on the prices of first objects as reflected in the successful bids.

Claim 4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein first objects are spectrum licenses for communication spectrum and second objects are related clearing rights for television transmission in the same or adjacent spectrum.

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Claim 5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein step c) terminates an auction in the event no new bids were submitted and wherein step c) also transmits new bidding information to bidders in the event the auction is not terminated.

Claim 6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein step f) is limited to selected bidders.

Claim 7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein, preparatory to the auction initiated at step a), a related auction is conducted, the related auction selecting a relation between a price of a first object and a price of a complementary second object, the related auction comprising the steps of:

a1) providing information to bidders of the initiation of the related auction,

a2) receiving bids from bidders concerning the relation; and

a3) selecting a relation between the price of a second object and the price of a first object, based on the bids of step a2).

Claim 8. (Original) The method of claim 7 further including selecting as participating bidders those bidders who either bid at least the selected relation or who accede to the selected relation.

Claim 9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein only steps a) -e) inclusive are performed by or with the aid of the computer.

Claim 10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein steps a) -f) are performed by or with the aid of the computer.

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Claim 11. (Original) A method for using a computer to implement an auction of a set of licenses for communication spectrum and one or more complementary second objects, each second object comprising clearing rights related to a license, two or more bidders participating in the auction, the method comprising:

- a) initiating an auction by identifying available communication licenses to bidders,
- b) inputting, into the computer, bids for the communication licenses from bidders,
- c) determining at the computer whether to continue the auction, based on whether at least one new bid of step b) exceeded a minimum acceptable bid, and in the event the auction is continued, sending information to bidders respecting a minimum acceptable bid,
- d) repeating steps b) and c) until the auction is terminated,
- e) assigning the communication licenses to successful bidders based on the bids in force at the time the auction is terminated, and
- f) assigning to a successful bidder a related clearing right at a price related to the bid in force at the time the auction is terminated.

Claim 12. (Original) The method of claim 11 which includes assigning each clearing right to the successful bidder for the related communication license.

Claim 13. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein only steps a) -e) are performed by or with the aid of the computer.

Claim 14. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein steps a)-f) are performed by or with the aid of the computer.

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Claim 15. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein, preparatory to the auction initiated at step a), a related auction is conducted, the related auction selecting a relation between a price of a clearing right and a price of a related communication license, the related auction comprising the steps of:

- a1) providing information to bidders of the initiation of the related auction,
- a2) inputting to the computer bid information for the relation;
- a3) determining at the computer, based on the bid information of step a2) to terminate the auction unless at least one new acceptable bid was submitted wherein an acceptable bid is considered larger than a preexisting bid, in the event the auction is not terminated sending information respecting the highest bids for the relation to participating bidders as indicating bids which are not acceptable, and
- a4) in the event the related auction is terminated, selecting the relation as the highest bid for the proportion of price of a clearing right and related communication license.

Claim 16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein only steps a1)-a3) and a) -e) are performed by or with the aid of the computer.

Claim 17. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein steps a1)-a4) and a)-f) are performed by or with the aid of the computer.

Claim 18. (Currently amended). A method for using a computer to implement an auction of a set of first objects and a set of second objects, at least one first object having a complementary associated with at least one second object, at least one second object having a complementary associated with at least one first object, two or more bidders participating in the auction, the method comprising:

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- a) initiating an auction by identifying available the set of first objects and the set of second objects to bidders,
- b) inputting, into the computer, bids for first objects from bidders,
- c) inputting, into the computer, bids for second objects from bidders, where an acceptable bid for a second object is constrained by a bid for a complementary at least one associated first object,
- d) determining, at the computer, based on the bids of steps b) and c), whether the auction should continue,
- e) repeating steps b), c) and d) until the auction is terminated, and
- f) assigning the objects to bidders based on the bids ~~in force at the time the auction was terminated~~ for first objects and second objects.

Claim 19. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein first objects are communication licenses and second objects are clearing rights related to a communication license.

Claim 20. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein an auction is terminated at step d) when no new acceptable bids are received.

Claim 21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20 wherein an acceptable bid [of] for a second object is a bid that is at least as great[er] in price than a preexisting as a specified multiple of a bid for an associated first object.

Claims 22-26 (Cancelled)

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Claim 27. (Original) A method for using a computer to facilitate an auction of clearing rights, the clearing rights corresponding to licenses for communications spectrum, two or more bidders participating in the auction, the method comprising:

- a) receiving a plurality of clearing agreements, each of the agreements concerning television broadcasting rights or other encumbrances to one or more licenses for communications spectrum,
- b) manipulating the clearing agreements to create a plurality of separate clearing rights, each of the clearing rights aligning, in location on the electromagnetic spectrum and in geographic location, with the scope of a different one of the communications licenses
- c) storing the results of step b) so that clearing rights and the associated clearing agreements can be correlated.

Claim 28. (Original) The method of claim 27 wherein the manipulating step includes aggregating several agreements into a single clearing right in the event a clearing agreement has a geographic scope smaller than a communication license.

Claim 29. (Original) The method of claim 27 wherein the manipulating step includes partitioning a clearing agreement into more than a single clearing right in the event the clearing agreement has a geographic scope exceeding that of a communication license.

Claim 30. (Original) The method of claim 27 wherein the manipulating step includes aggregating several agreements into a single clearing right in the event a clearing agreement has a geographic scope smaller than a communication license and partitioning a clearing agreement into more than a single clearing right in the event the clearing agreement has a geographic scope exceeding that of a communication license.

Claim 31. (Original) The method of claim 27 which further comprises:

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d) assigning to a successful bidder a clearing right aligned with the communication license.

Claim 32. (Original) The method of claim 31 which further includes the steps preparatory to step d) of:

c1) conducting an auction of at least some of the communication licenses.

Claim 33. (New) A method for using a computer to facilitate an auction of clearing rights, the clearing rights corresponding to licenses for communications spectrum, two or more bidders participating in the auction, the method comprising:

a) receiving a plurality of clearing agreements, each of the agreements concerning television broadcasting rights or other encumbrances to one or more licenses for communications spectrum,

b) manipulating the clearing agreements to create a plurality of separate clearing rights, each of the clearing rights aligning, in location on the electromagnetic spectrum and in geographic location, with the scope of a different one of the communications licenses

c) storing the results of step b) so that clearing rights and the associated clearing agreements can be correlated.

Claim 34. (New) The method of claim 33 wherein the manipulating step includes aggregating several agreements into a single clearing right in the event a clearing agreement has a geographic scope smaller than a communication license.

Claim 35. (New) The method of claim 33 wherein the manipulating step includes partitioning a clearing agreement into more than a single clearing right in the event the clearing agreement has a geographic scope exceeding that of a communication license.

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Claim 36. (New) The method of claim 33 wherein the manipulating step includes aggregating several agreements into a single clearing right in the event a clearing agreement has a geographic scope smaller than a communication license and partitioning a clearing agreement into more than a single clearing right in the event the clearing agreement has a geographic scope exceeding that of a communication license.

Claim 37. (New) The method of claim 33 which further comprises:

d) assigning to a successful bidder a clearing right aligned with the communication license.

Claim 38. (New) The method of claim 37 which further includes the steps preparatory to step d) of:

c1) conducting an auction of at least some of the communication licenses.

Claim 39. (New) The method of claim 18 wherein at least one first object has a complementary second object and at least one second object has a complementary first object.

Claim 40. (New) The method of claim 33 wherein an auction is terminated at step d) when no new acceptable bids are received.

Claim 41. (New) The method of claim 40 wherein an acceptable bid for a second object is a bid that is at least as great in price as a specified multiple of a bid for an associated first object.

Claim 42. (New) The method of claim 18 wherein the assigning of the objects to bidders is based solely on the bids for first objects and second objects in force at the time the auction was terminated.

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Claim 43. (New) A computer system for implementing an auction of a set of first objects and a set of second objects, at least one first object associated with at least one second object, at least one second object associated with at least one first object, two or more bidders participating in the auction, the system comprising:

- a) means for initiating an auction by identifying the set of first objects and the set of second objects to bidders,
- b) means for inputting bids for first objects from bidders and for inputting bids for second objects from bidders,
- c) means for constraining bids for a second object based on bids for at least one associated first object,
- d) means for determining, based on the inputted and constrained bids, whether the auction should continue,
- e) means for repeating the inputting, constraining and determining until the auction is terminated, and
- f) means for assigning the objects to bidders based on the bids for first objects and second objects.

Claim 44. (New) The system of claim 43 wherein first objects are communication licenses and second objects are clearing rights related to a communication license.

Claim 45. (New) The system of claim 44 wherein an auction is terminated when no new acceptable bids are received.

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Claim 46. (New) The system of claim 45 wherein an acceptable bid for a second object is a bid that is at least as great in price as a specified multiple of a bid for an associated first object.

Claim 47. (New) The system of claim 43 wherein at least one first object has a complementary second object and at least one second object has a complementary first object.

Claim 48. (New) The system of claim 47 wherein an auction is terminated when no new acceptable bids are received.

Claim 49. (New) The system of claim 48 wherein an acceptable bid is a bid of greater price than a preexisting bid.

Claim 50. (New) The system of claim 49 wherein the means for assigning assigns the objects to bidders based solely on the bids for first objects and second objects in force at the time the auction was terminated.